

**Delaware Health Care Commission  
DELAWARE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH (DIMER)  
Board of Directors  
May 17, 2017**

**University of Delaware  
STAR Campus Health Sciences Complex, Room 113  
540 S. College Avenue, Newark**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:** Sherman Townsend, Chairman; Michael Alexander, MD; David Barlow, PhD; Katherine Collison, MSM; Galicano F. Inguito, Jr., MD, MBA, CPE; Neil Jasani, MD, MBA; Chuan-Shue Lee; Vincent Lobo, Jr., DO; Kathleen S. Matt, PhD; Lisa Maxwell, MD; James Richards, PhD

**School Liaisons Present:** Deborah Benvenger, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM)

**Staff Present:** Shebra Hall, Delaware Health Care Commission (DHCC)

**Other Guests:** Mark Thompson, Medical Society of Delaware (MSD)

Due to technical difficulties, David Paskin, MD, Sidney Kimmel Medical College (SKMC), and Helen Arthur, DHCC, were disconnected from the teleconference.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Sherman Townsend called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup> MEETING MINUTES**

Sherman Townsend asked for a vote to approve the February 17th meeting minutes. Dr. Michael Alexander motioned to approve the minutes and Dr. James Richards seconded the motion. All were in favor of approving the minutes. Motion carried.

**UPDATE ON DIMER ADVOCACY EFFORTS**

Mr. Townsend shared that Mr. Wayne Smith has been working diligently to advocate for DIMER funding to be put back in the state general budget, but was unable to attend the meeting to give an update. Mr. Townsend has been meeting with the legislators, and they appear to be in favor of supporting DIMER. DIMER funding has been allocated in Governor Carney's budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2018, however, advocacy efforts should continue as the Joint Finance Committee considers the final budget. Mr. Townsend is disappointed that the budget proposal did not include the \$200,000 for the residency program at Christiana Care Health System (CCHS) and the \$50,000 for medical education programs at the University of Delaware (UD), but he continues to meet with legislators to encourage their inclusion in the budget. Mr. Townsend shared a letter with the Board from a DIMER medical student who will be graduating in June and continuing his education in the residency program at CCHS. Testimonials such as this will continue to be important in supporting DIMER advocacy efforts, and DIMER students and alumni are encouraged to contact their legislators and tell their story. With the recent discussions around the state budget deficit and impending cuts, Mr. Townsend suggested revisiting our media outlets and trying to get another article written about DIMER in print media, and possibly writing another letter to the legislature.

**DIMER STUDENTS ADMISSIONS UPDATE**

Deborah Benvenger shared that PCOM has received 58 applications from Delaware students, and 38 have been invited to interview. To date, 26 applicants have been offered admission, and 19 have accepted and confirmed their place in the incoming class of students. Of these accepted students, there are 10 men and 9 women. Four applicants are on the wait list, and they are expecting additional information from 1 applicant.

Dr. Neil Jasani relayed Dr. David Paskin's update on enrollment at SKMC. SKMC has received 84 applications from Delaware students, and 34 have been invited to interview. Of those applicants, 25 were offered admission, and 20 have accepted.

Dr. David Barlow added that the number of DIMER students accepted in to PCOM and SKMC include about 6 students from the Medical Scholars program at UD. Overall, about 82% of the post-grad year 1 Medical Scholars students are accepted in to medical school.

### **UPDATE FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEE**

The DIMER Board subcommittee will provide a full report at the September DIMER Board meeting, but Mr. Townsend offered a brief update. The subcommittee envisions a reorganization of DIMER, where it includes additional organizations, particularly all Delaware hospitals and residency programs, and institutions of higher learning. They believe that the inclusion of these additional institutions under the umbrella of medical education, will make DIMER stronger. Mr. Townsend shared that there is discussion among the legislature around the hope to secure permanent funding for DIMER. Mr. Townsend also spoke with representatives from the WWAMI Regional Medical Education program. WWAMI (an acronym representing Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho), is a five-state partnership with the University of Washington School of Medicine (UWSOM) that educates a fixed number of medical students from and for their states. The Director of the Wyoming branch of the program shared that the Wyoming budget is \$14M, which is good information to have while advocating for a DIMER budget of \$2M. Dr. Jasani added that recommendations from the subcommittee will include thoughts around some of the SIM initiatives, like the Workforce Learning and Relearning Curriculum and the Health Professionals Consortium.

### **STATE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM (SLRP) UPDATE**

HCC submitted a request to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for carryover funds, which was awarded in the beginning of May. Currently, \$685,172 is available for new SLRP awards. All SLRP awards will require a 1:1 match. The match to the federal dollars can come from any non-federal private or community source, providing 50% of the total awarded amount. Applicants must enter in to a 2-year contract, and provide services in a designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA), with SLRP funding going towards qualifying education repayment only. The SLRP application process will reopen later this month, with new program guidelines available on the HCC website.

### **BOARD MEMBER UPDATES & OTHER BUSINESS**

The Division of Professional Regulation (DPR) established new rules on prescribing opiates, which went into effect on April 1<sup>st</sup>. A flyer for the new guidelines for health care providers was disseminated to Board members and is available on the DPR website:

[http://www.dpr.delaware.gov/boards/controlledsubstances/documents/Prescription\\_Opioid\\_Fact\\_Sheet-Providers.pdf](http://www.dpr.delaware.gov/boards/controlledsubstances/documents/Prescription_Opioid_Fact_Sheet-Providers.pdf)

Meredith Warner, MD, MBA, will be the commencement speaker at UD this year. Dr. Warner is a UD Medical Scholars graduate and a DIMER graduate from Jefferson (SKMC).

UD will be expanding its Living Learning Communities (LLC) program for first year student applicants who are interested in pre-med and other health-related professions. The Pre-Health Professions LLC will now accept up to 150 students.

In about 6 weeks, 90 new residents will be starting rotations at CCHS, and about 20 residents at the branch campus shortly thereafter. There will be 28 residents starting at Nemours/AIDHC and 6 at Saint Francis.

There is a continued popularity in health services at UD. For example, there were 1,900 applicants for the nursing programs, with 196 acceptances. The PhD and Nurse DNP programs are also expanding. Faculty hires have increased as well, with 30 new hires this year. Students have asked for additional medical practice opportunities, so medical lab services will be offering an emergency medical training program this summer. STAR Tower is expected to be completed by August 2018, and will add an additional 50,000 square feet of classroom, research, and lab space. There is also a partnership with Beebe Hospital for a RN – BSN program.

CCHS has launched some new programs, including a psychology internship program, and a pilot NP residency in primary care program in September. CCHS is also applying to the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) to start a psychiatry program.

The UD Kinesiology & Applied Physiology PhD students are professionally diverse and are working on some particularly impressive projects, including some provisional patents on products developed.

Mr. Mark Thompson (Medical Society of Delaware), echoed Mr. Townsend's comments that legislative advocacy efforts are still important and MSD will continue to support the reinstatement of DIMER funding in the state budget.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 27, 2017 at 4:15 p.m., at the University of Delaware STAR Campus, Conference Room 113.

### **ADJOURN**

Hearing no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.